GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3357
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Natural Calamity in Uttarakhand
Singh Shri Lallu

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the human skeletons of those who could not be saved in the natural calamity of Uttarakhand in June 2013 are being traced on roads and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of apprehension expressed by the experts in the wake of the said natural calamity that more than 450 such villages are prone to natural calamities like the one that occurred in June 2013, a policy for rehabilitation was framed but the same is not being implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b): As per information received from the State Government, nearly 4000 people had lost their lives in the natural calamity of Uttarakhand in June 2013. Till September, 2016, 639 dead bodies/ remains have been recovered. Most of these bodies are buried under debris of the devastating floods in 2013. Some of these bodies are also believed to be

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along higher altitude areas around Kedarnath where the people had taken shelter after the Kedarnath floods. The State Government has formed search teams comprising of the local Administration, Police, Forest, State Disaster Response Force and local communities to search for these missing people. The search operation is continuing for the past three years and the State Government is working continuously to find these dead bodies. As the areas are very vast and remote, it is possible that some of these bodies have not yet been recovered.

(c) & (d) The rehabilitation/ relocation of villages vulnerable against natural calamities is required to be primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government from its own resources and also based on the availability of Government lands as per their existing land/ rehabilitation policy.

Identification of such vulnerable village is a continuous process of the governance system. To rehabilitate/ relocate these villages, it requires identification of vulnerable village through Geological survey, identification of alternative places for rehabilitation, availabilities of
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financial resources and social consideration. All these steps involve extensive consultation with the villages/ villagers and are time consuming. Rehabilitation is done only where Geologically safe suitable sites are found available with the consent of villagers. The State Government has informed that they have identified 395 vulnerable villages prone to various type of natural calamity before the 2013 disaster. So far, two villages/ hamlets in District Rudraprayag and Chamoli have been rehabilitated.

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